



July 12, 2022

Dear Brian Levenhagen,

It is my pleasure to inform you of my full support for the grant proposal being submitted by the City of Kent Parks Recreation and Community Services Department for the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Clark Lake Park Acquisition Grant.

Clark Lake Park is a much beloved community park used regularly by a diverse population of residents, students, and teachers. Besides creating connections for all members of the community, Clark Lake Park is critical natural resource in Kent, providing a place to escape into nature where all people feel safe and welcome.

This park has faithfully served the students and teachers of Martin Sortun Elementary School through field trips and outdoor, nature-based education for many years. The acquisition of the Ruth property would complete the assemblage of parkland for Clark Lake and create a unique destination where teachers and students could learn and explore, creating more outdoor and nature-based learning opportunities.

Outdoor recreation and education are an essential component of physical and mental wellbeing. Acquiring the Ruth Property would improve trail connectivity and access to the outdoors for more community members and future improvements to this property will make this park even more of a destination within the city.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the City of Kent Parks Department as they seek to acquire the Ruth property and increase the opportunities for community access to Clark Lake Park.

Dr. Israel Vela
Superintendent

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